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PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #4000 2410427
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 290427Z AUG 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7034
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2862
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6488
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8685
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1860
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4746
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5669
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 004000

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - 8/22 SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT BUSH ON IRAQ

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday papers led with the results of their opinion polls taken after Monday's cabinet reshuffle, showing that support for Prime Minister Abe improved by as much as 12.5 points to 44 percent.

1. "Bush's Controversial Reading of War History"
Washington correspondent Arimoto of the conservative Sankei wrote (8/29): "President Bush's speech on August 22 rejecting calls for a pullout of US forces from Iraq has generated controversy for his reference to the US victory over Japan in WWII and the Vietnam War. His direct linking of the Iraq war and the Vietnam War was the most controversial part, as he spoke of the 'tragedy' that occurred in Vietnam after the US withdrawal. As the president is now in a tight corner in the face of calls by some of his fellow Republicans to get out of Iraq, it will be interesting to see how the US public evaluates President Bush's reading of history.... The White House is reportedly pleased that the speech has elicited so much public interest. It is uncertain to what extent his interpretation of the Vietnam War will be shared by the public. There is no question, however, that he achieved his of igniting debate about the comparison."

DONOVAN